

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC  
Region 1  
HHS-N-276-2011-00003-C  
Hospital Library Program Mobile Computing Project:: The  
Next Generation  
Hunter Rice Health Sciences Library  
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## **Executive Summary**

This project will replace and upgrade equipment purchased with previous NLM and NN/LM MAR grant funding for the Hospital Library Program's Mobile Computing Project. Ultralight portable laptop computers and their accessories will make it much easier for the circuit librarian to carry a fully functioning computer directly to each location served by the Hospital Library Program. The previously purchased HP laptops proved to be too bulky and weighed 9 pounds each not counting accessories and travel case. It was very difficult for our circuit librarians to carry such heavy laptops around with them all the time.

As for the iPad, it's portability and light weight make it very useful, but it suffers from an Achilles' heel—it is still not possible to directly connect it to any common computer peripherals such as a printer or a scanner. Therefore, NYUSWN has chosen the new Intel Ultraportable class of Windows-based laptops, believing it to be the best choice for circuit librarians and for staff members using it in the course of their duties. Minimal training will be required for staff members as all are very familiar with Windows operating system.

By purchasing four new iPad2s NYUSWN will shorten the current wait time of three months or longer for iPads. This will result in the very successful iPad familiarization program for employees and medical staff becoming even more successful by reducing waiting time. iPad2 training will require no more than 1 hour per staff member as all are familiar with the older iPad. Once staff has become acquainted to the new features of the iPad2, they will be able to show patrons how to work the device. In the past year most patrons have a fair to good understanding of how the iPad works as they have other Apple products at home or at work. Most patrons require less than 15 to 20 minutes each to teach the basics of iPad operation.

With our new scanner, NYUSWN will be able to offer high-resolution scans of medical pictures, graphs, historical documents, and diagrams to our patrons. The library technician is an expert with scanning all kinds of documents and photographs, but will familiarize himself with the capabilities of the Epson V700 before operating the device.

## **Minority Populations Served**

African Americans: No  
American Indians/Alaska Natives: No  
Asian Americans: No  
Hispanics/Latinos: No  
Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders: No  
Other: No

## **Approaches and Interventions Used**

All equipment has been ordered, received and is currently operating normally.

3 Asus Ultrabook lightweight laptop computers and accessories were purchased from CDW but the machines were backordered and we did not receive them until February 23rd. After configuration by Samaritan Medical Center's Management Information Systems department, they were finally released to staff members on March 5, 2012.

4 iPad2s purchased, configured and, currently in use library patrons.

Epson v700 high resolution scanner purchased, configured and operational.

Adobe Acrobat Professional Software purchased and installed. We are currently using this software to develop new electronic forms for the library's web site.

## Evaluation Activities

For the project period Hunter-Rice Health Sciences Library/Hospital Library Program has checked out or put on a waiting list close to 30 new iPad patrons. Highlights where the iPad2 tablets have been particularly useful to hospital staff are:

Use of iPad2 as a mobile platform for TMS software by Four Rivers Software Inc. by Samaritan Medical Center's Biomedical Engineering Department. TMS is a total maintenance and inventory tracking software for clinical equipment to include parts, maintenance histories and process work orders. The department found a way to use Citrix client software which mimics a Windows 7 desktop on the iPad. Biomedical Department personnel can then log onto the TMS software regardless of location. They now have the ability to correct problems, check maintenance records, track equipment repairs in real time and receive requests no matter their location including patient rooms. Martin Sala, Head of the Biomedical Engineering Department for Samaritan Medical Center said, "You guys in the Library have really helped us improve things in this department by loaning us that iPad2."

Human Resources at Samaritan Medical Center is testing an iPad2 for use as a mobile computing platform to verify personnel records and other data while HR personnel are away from their desks. This experiment is not yet complete as of the filing of this report, but all indications are the iPad2 will be implemented to some extent in the near future in the day-to-day operations of the HR Department.

iPad2s have been checked out by 5 physicians who commented on the versatility of the platform and definitely saw a future for the iPad2 in patient care.

The Samaritan Medical Center Chief Information Officer has informed the Library that the Management Information Systems Department is purchasing 30 new iPads (iPad3s) for the Samaritan Board of Directors to facilitate the trend toward the paperless, on demand office. He expressed support for what the Library's iPad/Pad2 checkout program has been able to accomplish.

## **Problems or Barriers Encountered**

The only major problem/delay we encountered in this project was the delay in receiving the Asus Ux31 Ultrabook Computers from our vendor CDW. We did not get these computers out into the field until March 5th 2012. When we selected these ultraportable laptops, we had no idea how popular they would be.

## **Continuation Plans**

This project will continue in its present format for the foreseeable future. Equipment will continue to receive technical and logistical support from the Management Information Systems Department of Samaritan Medical Center and repair or replacement costs after the equipment warranty expires will be born by the Hunter-Rice Health Sciences Library/Hospital Library Program. In the future, funds could be applied for from various funding sources to replace the equipment funded in this project, but that would be at least 3 to 4 years in the future.

## **Impact**

We believe that the impact of the equipment purchased will have a very positive impact on the Hunter-Rice Health Sciences Library/Hospital Library Program for years to come by helping us keep pace with the technology advances in recent years, by enabling the Library and the institutions we serve advance technologically and by enabling the Library to provide on the spot customer service during our visits. The iPad2s, in particular, have enabled at least our Biomedical Engineering Department at Samaritan Medical Center, to revolutionize its procedures, helping it provide efficient, on-demand service to hospital staff, which greatly improves patient care by quickly identifying where equipment repairs are needed and the status of those repairs.



## **Lessons Learned**

We learned that sometimes the best available equipment for a project may not be immediately available for shipment and that implementing a project may be delayed by delayed shipment of equipment ordered.

On the positive side, we learned to work more closely with the other hospital information technology staffs from other institutions participating in the Hospital Library Program to provide wireless internet and printer access for circuit librarians. This closer cooperation between IT staff and circuit rider librarians has led to increased efficiency and better time management on the part of circuit librarians by enabling them to work in many places at a hospital and not be tied to one or a few desk top computers.

## Other

N/A

**Attachment 1: AR summary data: Subcontractor activities**